The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1914, at the Postoffice, at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 6. NO. 49. WASHINGTON, D. C. JULY 7, 1917. WHOLE NO. 309.

## INJUNCTION JUDGES WOULD BIND STRIKERS

Chicago, March 2.—Judges Jesse A. Baldwin and Adam C. Smith, of the Circuit Court of Cook County have issued sweeping injunctions against striking ladies' garment workers, their officers and "the unknown members" of every trade union in this city, together with their "attorneys, solicitors, agents and servants."

No trade unionist or sympathizer can escape these all-inclusive edicts.

Judges Baldwin and Smith enjoin everyone "from in any way interfering with, hindering, obstructing or stopping the business of the complainants;" from "picketing or maintaining any picket or pickets at or near the premises of the complainants;" from "following the employes of the complainants, respectively, to their homes, or to other places, or from calling upon such employes for the purpose or with the effect of inducing them to leave the employment of the complainants," from "attempting the payment or promise of money, employment or other rewards, to induce employes of the complainants to leave their employment;" from "sending any circulars or other communications to customers of the complainants, respectively, or to other persons who might deal or transact business with the complainants, respectively, for the purpose or with the effect of disuading such persons from so doing."

These judges, after denying every right to striking garment workers, then proceed to bind their illegal mandates around strikebreakers by ordering strikers to refrain "from doing anything which subjects any of the complainants' employes to hatred, criticism, censure, scorn, disgrace or annoyance because of their employment by the complainants."

Chicago, March 2.—Backed by Injunction Judges Baldwin and Smith, who would deny striking garment workers every right police officials are attempting to prevent girl pickets who charge that they are thrown into patrol wagons as though they were sacks of grain and that they are packed into filthy cells. Several thousand of these workers, 90 per cent of whom are women, are striking for better conditions.

### NEGRO INFLUX PERILS HEALTH

Philadelphia, March 3.—Migration of more than 50,000 southern negroes to this and other northern cities has brought about the most acute situation with which public health officials say they have ever been confronted. In the last six months Philadelphia has had an influx of more than 25,000 of these negroes and it was week by Wilmer Krusen, of the department of health and charities sounded a warning of the gravity of the problem. He stated that two-story dwellings in the negro sections of the city are housing, in many cases, five and more families with the consequent spread of disease, destitution and crime.

Those negroes have been attracted here with the stories of "high wages" that pay a range $2.50 a day. In the south, it is stated, they receive $10 and $11 a month.

Thousands of negroes and their families, packed in freight cars from Mississippi, Alabama, most of them sick and destitute—only to be crowded into the most congested negro sections. Clad in clothes ill-fitted for the northern climate, they fall easy prey to pneumonia and other diseases.

### SEAMEN'S ACT CRIPPLED.

Washington, March 2.—President Furuseth of the International Seamen's Union has ordered the union's attorneys to file an appeal in the so-called Strataren decision and has asked the union's executive board to sanction this procedure.

This decision was made by the Pensacola federal court, which rules that a seaman must be five days in port before he can make a legal demand for one-half of wages earned. As many of the Atlantic liners and practically all of the vessels in the coastwise trade only take time for unload and leave a port in less than five days, the effect of the decision will be to nullify the new law and permit vessel owners to hold their seamen.

### TO ORGANIZE TEACHERS.

San Francisco, March 2.—The executive committee of the local Labor Council reports that special efforts will be made during the year to organize public school teachers.

"We should have a more democratic management of our public schools," it is stated. "The teachers themselves should have a voice in the management of the schools."

The committee urges that every energy be devoted to securing the passage of a law requiring the bonding of injunctions in strike times. Another proposal favored is to cause by congress the passage of a bill regulating interstate commerce in convict-made goods.

### OUTLAW "CLOSED SHOP" TERM.

East Liverpool, Ohio, March 3.—Organized potters in this city have decided to cease using the term "closed shop," and have voted to hereafter use the term "union shop."

The terms "closed shop" and "open shop" are used by antagonists of organized labor who would create the impression that in their "open shop" unionists are welcome. Unionists well know what happens if they secure employment in one of these places and the potters have decided to make their fight cut and distinct by using the proper term.

### FUR WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Danbury, Conn., March 2.—Fur workers have organized as the result of a strike against the American Hatters' and Furriers' Corporation. These employes were paid as low as $7 and $8 a week and were forced to work 72 hours a week. Their homes are owned by the company. The strike struck concern, who recently raised rents nearly 100 per cent. Many of the strikers cannot understand the English language and they have paid as high as $25 for jobs at this slave pen.

### FAVORS COMPENSATION LAW.

Wilmington, Del., March 3.—The Morning News favors a workmen's compensation law for Delaware and denies that progressive legislation will hamper this state.

"The same argument is heard everywhere," says the editor. "The manufacturer who is looking for a location selects the one where labor is scarcest in finding it very difficult to find such a location."

### IRON MOLDERS ADVANCE.

Joplin, Mo., March 2.—Iron Molders' union No. 204 has secured an agreement with employers in this city and near-by localities. These workers will be paid $4.50 per day until May 1 when the scale will be $4.75 for a nine-hour day. This means a total increase of 90 cents a day.

### TELEPHONE GIRLS WIN.

Toledo, Ohio, March 3.—Telephone girls employed by the Home Telephone company have forced this concern to acknowledge their right to join a union, after a four-months' strike. When the girls organized, four of their number were discharged and the crew struck. They were joined by the outside electrical workers.

The company agrees to reinstate all strikers without discrimination, acknowledges their right to organize and to petition for grievances, which shall be adjusted by representatives of both parties. After the settlement, the company shall prevent demands for wage increases.

The strike was a dramatic one and the girls displayed wonderful courage when the company attempted to break the strike. Every union contributed to a strike-benefit fund and many of the unions carried weekly assessments on every member to pay the girls an amount equal to their former wages. The strike proved most disastrous to the company which lost thousands of patrons. Federal Judge Killits issued an injunction against violence" at the request of prominent citizens who are active in the Citizens' Alliance. The court was asked to act because the company is a subsidiary of an interstate corporation. The unionists denounced Judge Killits for his usurpation of duties that belong to officials charged with the enforcement of criminal law and showed that his honor was more interested in breaking the strike, as he issued no order to the public must not be interrupted."

### EVADES CONTRACT; MUST PAY

Pittston, Pa., March 3.—Charles P. Neill, umpire for the anthracite conciliation board, has ruled that the miners are to get eight-hour dispute and that this decision is retroactive, to date when the grievance was raised.

The company objected to paying the extra money on the ground that it would have been kept of the miners' earnings, as they had been employed on contract work and that therefore it was impossible to the exact amount of earnings the men were entitled to.

This position is not agreed to by Umpire Neill, who tells the company it should have kept an account of "what would have been" or should have known, that if the grievance were sustained, the question of the hours that each miner worked in the interim would be essential for the application of the decision of the board, or of the umpire, in accordance with the retroactive rule of the board.

"To deny the retroactive feature of this decision," the umpire said, "would obviously be to penalize men who had patiently and peacefully waited during a long period for orderly processes of settlement, and would be almost an invitation to repudiate such processes."

The umpire directs that the men be paid upon the basis of eight hours worked each day from the time the grievance was raised.

### ONE REASON FOR H. C. L.

San Francisco, March 3.—The financial and market departments of daily papers are publishing articles on workers and the following item, published in the San Francisco Bulletin, is typical of what is given sound attention by those most affected by the high cost of living:

"Reports of excellent rainfall made men would indicate that California farmers are exercising an unusual amount of caution in canning their crops this year. Remembering the opportunities lost last year, growers are much slower in signing up this year and the number are refusing contracts, choosing to wait and see what conditions will be like later.

"The fact that jobbers are now clearing up a profit of from 200 to 300 per cent on some varieties of canned goods on account of soaring prices, is one reason for growers to hold on for a longer period than usual and try their own luck.

"All of the onions that are now being put out by local jobbers at $12.50 per cental (hundred weight) were bought from the growers at an average price of $2 per cental."

### THREE VICIOUS PROPOSALS.

St. Paul, Minn., March 3.—The workers of this state are confronted by three vicious measures now pending in the Minnesota legislature.

Representative Knutson wants a "can't-strike" law similar to the Colorado statute, which is opposed by workers of that state.

Senator Peterson would give sheriffs authority to throw into jail as a vagrant any person who refuses to work in local jurisdiction on 24 hours' notice.

Senator Duxbury believes an anti-picketing law would meet the industrial unrest. To strengthen his scheme this lawmaker would also prohibit the publication, "whether in form of cards, stickers, dodgers, banners, transparencies," of any reference to an unfair employer.

### WILL INITIATE FOUR LAWS.

Dallas, Tex., March 3.—Trade unionists secured the necessary signatures for these four ordinances to be voted on April 3:

Eight-hour day for men employed by public utilities corporations; safety appliances for street railroad employes; no increase in rates by a public utilities corporation unless the people; protection of public utilities employes in their right to join labor unions.

### OPPOSE BEING "TABBED."

Holyoke, Mass., March 3.—The Allied Printing Trades Council objected to some of the questions asked by the American Writing Paper company on blanks issued by its research department. The unionists refused to answer personal questions, and at a conference with officials agreed to submit a new form and then leave it optional with employes. The company says it wants information for future promotions.

### STREET CAR MEN WANT MORE.

Washington, March 3.—Street Car Men's union No. 689 has presented to the street car companies in the nation's capital to raise wages to 35 cents an hour for motormen and conductors and to seek a 10-hour work day on Sundays and holidays. This union was organized last year and secured improved conditions after a week's strike. The workers moved so fast and so effectively that the companies say that the companies were caught napping.

### MOSAIC WORKERS GAIN

Pittsburg, Pa., March 3.—Marble Mosaic Workers' union has won practically all of its demands from employers after numerous conferences. Included in these gains is the increase of 2 cents per car fare to and from work over two blocks from the city hall. This point was reached most stoutly by the employers.

### BOILER MAKERS WIN STRIKE.

Baltimore, Md., March 3.—The boiler makers' strike at the Spedden Ship Building company has been settled by the company agreeing to raise wages. Hereafter the lowest rate of the union will be $4.50 a day.

## State High Court Favors Freedom of Action by Workers

St. Paul, Minn., March 2.—The state supreme court has vitalized American principles of freedom of action and has jarred the Anti-Boycott association in two decisions that accord workers the right to refuse to work for non-union employers, to ask others to assist them, to carry on a boycott, and to carry a banner advertising an unfair place of business.

In the case of the George L. Grant Contracting company against the St. Paul Building Trades Council the court sustains the refusal of Judge Dickson of the Ramsey country district court to issue an injunction against these unionists, who were charged with "injuring the business" of the non-union concern by refusing to work for it and by announcing it to be unfair to organized labor.

In supporting Judge Dickson's position the court said:

"Defendants have the right to work for whom they please. It is best that we give both employer and employe a broad field of action, as said by Justice Brandeis: 'It is a part of every man's civil rights that he be left at liberty to refuse business relations with others, because, however, whether the refusal rests upon reason or is the result of, whim, caprice, prejudice or malice. With his reasons neither the public nor third persons have any legal concern.'

"The interference with the trade relations of one with whom you have no trade relations yourself is presumptively unlawful, but conditions may be such as to furnish justification for such conduct. A person may refuse to work for another, and he is in pursuit of some lawful object.

"A person in furtherance of his own interests may take such action as circumstances may require, and so long as he does not act maliciously toward or unreasonably or unnecessarily interfere with rights of his neighbor, he cannot be charged with actionable wrong, whatever may be the result of his conduct in pursuing his own welfare."

In the case of the Minneapolis Moving Picture Operators' union versus Albert Steffes, proprietor of a picture theater, the court upholds the refusal of a lower court to enjoin the workers from carrying banners relating to Steffes' place as unfair to organized labor.

In supporting this rule by the lower court, the state supreme court says:

"The term 'unfair,' as used by organized labor, has come to have a meaning well understood. It means that the person so designated is unfriendly to organized labor or that he refuses to recognize its rules and regulations. It charges no moral shortcoming and no want of business integrity or honesty. To apply to a theater it signifies nothing as to the merits of its performances. As a rule one man has no right to interfere in the business affairs of another, but if his act is done in pursuance of a just purpose, and so long as he does not act maliciously and does not unreasonably or unnecessarily interfere with the rights of his neighbor, he cannot be charged with actionable wrong.

"If a banner itself is lawful we are unable to see how the mere display of it by a pedestrian upon a public street is unlawful."

### SHERIFFS SUBSIDIZED BY SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Nashville, Tenn., March 2.—An effort is being made in this state to secure a law that will prohibit railroads giving free passes to public officials. The railroads in this state are ever ready for this purpose or securing official favors.

To disprove this claim the Nashville Tennessean is printing a series of letters that have passed between railroad officials during the past several years. One of these, from General Counsel H. L. Stone, of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, to the sheriff of Hamilton county, in which the company does business, especially where other railroad companies operating lines in the same counties issue such transportation to the sheriffs of those counties.

"The sheriff has more to do than any other official with the make-up of the juries and can be called to try our damage suits. If we have his good will he can help us greatly (I do not mean corruptly), but there are many ways in which he can help us greatly in defending damage suits and other improvements, is at hand," he says.

"Shall we continue the baby act of attempting to shift responsibility for such acts, or the practice of acting, for somebody else? Such acts may be consoling, but are not manly. Unions that are alive are 25 cents a month. On our statistical report is ready for publication it will be found that conditions in the tailors themselves are the only people to blame for conditions being what they are—the most undesirable conditions any wage earner could work under."

### TO PROTECT VICTIMIZED.

Chicago, March 3.—Officers of the Workers' Defense League, this city, have issued a call for voluntary contributions to a fund to aid members discharged by employers for activities in union activity. This action was ordered by the last convention. It is suggested that a fund of $25 per week be contributed by each member. This will permit a victimized telegraphist to receive $15 a week until employment is secured.

This organization is attempting to organize the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies. Both institutions maintain elaborate spy systems. Despite these obstacles the union is growing and a militant spirit is being developed.

### ARREST IDLERS, NOT PICKETS.

Boston, March 2.—In discharging Henry Marcus, arrested for picketing a theater in this city, Judge Sullivan said that the police should arrest persons who congregate around the pickets while on duty, in the picket line, or who congregate to either the action or the gathering of the crowds.

Marcus was picketing one of the theaters, the White Rats Actors' union has declared a strike against. He was fined $10 for enforce better working conditions and lessen the evils of booking agents.

### BATTLE CREEK'S LOW WAGE.

Battle Creek, Mich., March 2.—Locked out machinists and their friends quote statistics which show that cities that pay the lowest wage in Michigan in proportion to its size and production. The manufacturers are organized and make loud claim that Battle Creek should continue on a non-union basis. When the lockout began the organization was thoroughly organization they were locked out. The statistics indicate why employers plead for "the independence of their workers."

### IOWA TEAMSTERS LOCKED OUT.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, March 2.—Because they refused to sign an agreement with the Teamsters' union No. 402 have been locked out by local transfer companies. The men were paid $15.50 for a 54-hour week and they were asked to accept the 10-hour day and the non-union shop when they demanded $18 for 54 hours.

Recently these concerns secured the passage of a city ordinance that permits them to increase the charge 25 per cent. for transfer and storage work.

### CITY FIREMEN ORGANIZE.

Galveston, Tex., March 2.—Galveston's new fire department is organized and affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. This organization, it is stated, is the first of the kind in the United States.

Dubuque, Iowa, March 2.—Municipal firemen have organized and are chartered by the American Federation of Labor as City Firemen's union No. 11,621.

### CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

New Rochelle, N. Y., March 2.—The Carpenters' union and the Contracting Carpenters' association have settled wage differences and agreeable that rates shall be raised 5 cents an hour, beginning May 1.

### RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 2.—As a result of numerous conferences Book-binders' union has secured wages $3 a week.

### GUARD KILLS; COMPANY TO PAY.

Memphis, Tenn., March 2.—A federal jury has found the Memphis Street Railway company guilty of violence in attempting to operate Street Car Men's union, and has ordered that it pay W. P. Benson $1,250 for the death of his brother, J. C. Benson, who was shot last July by W. A. Dillon, one of the company's guards.

Suit was started for $50,000 damages on the ground that a conspiracy existed between the company officials and Dillon to "kill, beat and run out of town" any persons employed by the car company who joined the Street Car Men's union, which was being formed at that time.

Dillon and seven others were recently convicted in the Shelby county criminal court on charges of manslaughter, each having found them guilty of killing Benson. On his death bed Benson, who was a motorman, declared that Dillon shot him. At the trial Attorney Anderson flayed officials of the company for their method in attempting to break the spirit of employes who were asking for better working conditions. The company made no attempt to defend itself and denied any connection with the murder.

### BLAMING OTHERS IS BABYISH.

Chicago, March 3.—Editor Sweeney, of the Tailor, official magazine of the Journeymen Tailors' union, has an appropriate comment on the way blames others for his condition.

"The opportunity for increasing the membership of the Journeymen Tailors' union, the increasing of the income to the tailors; shortening the workday, and other improvements, is at hand," he says.

"Shall we continue the baby act of attempting to shift responsibility for such acts, or the practice of acting, for somebody else? Such acts may be consoling, but are not manly. Unions that are alive are 25 cents a month. On our statistical report is ready for publication it will be found that conditions in the tailors themselves are the only people to blame for conditions being what they are—the most undesirable conditions any wage earner could work under."

### PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL TO AID VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Washington, March 2.—With four different pens made for the occasion President Wilson signed the vocational education bill. This provides federal cooperation with the states in establishing industrial schools for the teaching of trades and industries and agriculture.

The federal government will appropriate $1,000,000 a year. This amount will be for yearly increased, and will be apportioned to states that accept the provisions of the act.

### GOMPERS CABLES TO JAPAN.

Washington, March 2.—For the purpose of establishing fraternal relations between the workers of Japan and America the far east, President Gompers cabled this message to President Suzuki of the Labor Federation of Japan, at Tokio:

"The most important immediate duty of our labor movements is to use every influence in their power upon the governments of Japan and the United States to maintain the best possible relations between their respective countries and endeavor amicably to solve vexatious problems."

President Suzuki replied as follows:

"Co-operate for labor and humanity."

Mr. Suzuki came to the United States to be the fraternal representative of the year he again visited this country and attended the conventions of the California State Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor.

### CIGAR GIRLS WIN STRIKE.

Newark, N. J., March 3.—After a short strike the girls employed by the cigar plug of L. Lewis & Company, secured a complete victory and returned to work with a new wage scale and improved working conditions. A majority, of the girls have made application for membership in the Cigar Makers' union, A. F. of L. Organizer Hilfers says the successful ending of this movement is having a good effect on other unorganized shops who have asked him to address them on trade unionism.

### WANT LABOR LAW AMENDED.

Lansing, Mich., March 2.—The state federation of labor is urging the following amendments to the state compensation law:

Include sub-contractors; reduce waiting period from two weeks to one week; provide compensation for disfigurements; raise maximum weekly benefit from $10 to $15 and the minimum from $4 to $5.

### 30,000 DEFECTIVES.

Albany, N. Y., March 3.—There are 30,000 mental defectives in New York state and it will take $1,000,000 to adequately provide for them, says the state board of charities in its annual report to the state legislature. Of the 30,000 defectives there are in asylums or other institutions, and for this number the state has accommodations for 5,000, but over 3,000 more are crowded into the shelter of the walls.

### OPPOSE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Hartford, Conn., March 2.—State Highway Commissioner Bennett told a legislative committee that the proposal to make employes in his department on an eight-hour basis was "impracticable" as he could not then compete with private contractors. He asserted the lawmakers that the eight-hour principle was "entirely correct," but it was inworkable in his case.

### CAP MAKERS REDUCE HOURS.

New Haven, Conn., March 2.—The Cap Makers' union has secured the 47½-hour week and wages $3 a day. Recently without a strike.

### RIGHTS OF PICKETS UPHELD.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 2.—The criminal court of appeals has discharged a woman who had been arrested for picketing a struck theater in this city. The court ruled that the law "stays the hand of both criminal and civil courts from interfering with peaceful and or other peaceable endeavors of labor to further its interests in trade disputes.

"The trend of legal thought of modern times is, that since capital, consisting of money and property, is organized for profit, labor, consisting of brains and muscle, may organize and use peaceful and lawful means, and obtain a fair share in the distribution of the earnings which are the joint product of capital and labor."

A strike of theater employes has been on for several months and the city commissioners passed an ordinance prohibiting picketing. Mrs. Eva Sweitzer, one of the pickets, was arrested and the ordinance carried the case to the state criminal court of appeals on habeas corpus proceedings. In the decision, written by Justice Brett, it is stated that: "in law we cannot do indirectly that which may not be done directly and since the city commissioners cannot directly prohibit picketing in the furtherance of trade disputes they cannot accomplish that end indirectly or incidentally."

### LACK PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

Columbia, Mo., March 3.—This country has not yet learned the value of human life, said Dr. M. P. Ravenel of the University of Missouri in a plea for measures to protect the health of workers.

"People in general do not understand the risks which the working man undergoes in the production of things we wear and use," he declared. We talk of the waste of human life, he said. "Even the making of hats and dress goods carries well-known dangers. Those who work with the dyes and paints is particularly dangerous, resulting in the well-known lead poisoning. Carrying the finished hats is another occupations are dangerous. The beneficent Texas law is being passed in many states under the head of workmen's compensation acts—in which the employer assumes the risk of accidents—but it would unquestionably bring about notable reforms in many manufactories.

"A crying defect in our system by which the dust is sucked down into the basement prevents many of the most dangerous processes. Where grinding is done, the use of cover and suction apparatus would in most cases be sufficient to lead to good results. In many of the other trades, such as paint making and painting, healthy conditions depend on the thorough cleansing of the hands and mouth before eating, prevents many deplorable accidents."

### PROTESTS STARVATION WAGE.

Gretna, La., March 2.—"The mill and factory workers of Louisiana should get together and organize a mill workers' union and affiliate with the federation of labor, if they ever expect to command living wages," is the call issued by Lemuel Adams.

"The particular class is the most abused and poorest paid of all the industrial workers of the state. The mills of Gretna, in particular, are about the worst sweat shops to be found in this country. These life-crushing institutions expect efficiency from their employes, yet fail to pay them sufficient compensation to live on. They require children to start an agitation, get every mill worker in the state organized and demand living wages. If the employers fail to advance wages, then strike. One might just as well die of starvation by the slow process as to have the agony prolonged by half wages."

### BOILER MAKERS STRIKE.

Chester, Pa., March 3.—Boiler makers employed by all the plants in this city and at Marcus Hook are on strike for higher wages and better conditions. The companies are paying 30 cents an hour and working the same conditions as those where as are demanded by the strikers.

Kansas City, Mo., March 3.—Boiler makers employed at the Kaw Boiler Works, are on strike because the management declared for the non-union shop when employes asked for a new agreement.

### RAILROAD EARNS 38 PER CENT

New York, March 3.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad earned 38 per cent on its capital stock last year, or about twice 20 per cent paid in regular and extra dividends.

Its gross earnings for the period ended with Dec. 31 were $51,580,000, an increase over 1915 of $6,704,000, and the balance after fixed charges had been deducted, was $12,455,000, an increase of $3,000,000. After paying 10 per cent regular and the usual 10 per cent extra, the company had a surplus of $2,755,000, as compared with the $2,519,000 remaining at the end of the previous year.

### PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Jackson, Mich., March 2.—Typographical union has raised wages of day machine operators from $18 to $21 a week and of night operators from $19 to $21 a week. Day floormen are increased from $17.50 to $19.50 a week and night men from $19.50 to $21.

Columbus, Ohio, March 2.—Typographical union No. 5 has won its strike for higher wages in the job branch. Practically every shop has accepted the scale rates. Nearly 200 workers are benefited.

### STATE CARPENTERS MEET.

Worcester, Mass., March 2.—A successful convention of the district of Columbia school of Carpenters and Joiners, was held in this city, John Morgan of Boston was elected president and Fred Henry of Springfield, secretary. The latter city was selected as the next meeting place.

### STEAM FITTERS RAISE WAGES.

Peoria, Ill., March 3.—The Steam Fitters' union has secured a two-year agreement with all independent shops. Journeymen will be paid $5.50 a day and helpers, $4. Railroad work and board will be paid while working outside the city.

### TEXAS UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Fort Worth, Tex., March 2.—Officers of this state federation of labor have issued a call for the twentieth annual convention to be held in this city beginning May 21.

### TO RAISE AWARD ON DEATH.

Columbus, Ohio, March 1.—The state senate has passed the Cunningham bill which increases the maximum death award from the state workmen's compensation fund from $5,000 to $5,000.

### FARM JOURNAL UNIONIZED.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 2.—The Homestead company, publishers of the Iowa Homestead, farm journal, has signed an agreement with the Typographical union.

### CLERKS WANT HIGHER WAGES.

Belleville, Ill., March 2.—The Retail Clerks' union has asked store managers to raise wages 10 per cent and grant a nine-hour day to their women workers.

### TWO-YEAR CONTRACT SIGNED.

Waterbury, Conn., March 2.—Brewery Workers' union has secured a two-year contract which provides for improved conditions.

### GAINS BY METAL POLISHERS

Cincinnati, March 2.—General Secretary Allerton of the Metal Polishers' International union reports the following record gains:

Local 8 formed in Brooklyn, New York city and Bedford, Mass., three large firms in Chicago increased wages and reduced hours; Indianapolis company raises piece work rates 5 per cent and agrees to Saturday half holiday; Indianapolis Faulty-Trowbridge Stove Manufacturing company, Hamilton, Ohio, signs union card, workers 7 per cent; eight-hour and wage gains in Pittsburg, Pa., and St. Louis, Mo.; Excelsior Motor Manufacturing and Supply company and the Arnold Schwinn company, Chicago, both signed union shop agreements, 5 per cent and 10 per creases and nine-hour day; Engman & Matthews Range company, South Bend, Ind., have agreed to nine hour wage increases, division of work in slack times and 51-hour week; Pancheros Plating Works, Los Angeles, Cal., settled strike of metal polishers by discharging all strikebreakers, agreed to reinstate strikers on their former jobs, secure new force and nine-hour day, shop committee recognized and a wage of $5.50 a day to be paid; Quincy Stove manufacturers have raised wages 10 per cent; Northern Ohio Plating company, Cleveland, recognizes union for first time and signs agreement.

### TEACHERS ASK HIGHER WAGE.

New York, March 3.—"Do you expect men and women to teach your children the principles of American citizenship for less than you pay scrubwomen and ditch diggers?" asked one teacher at a hearing before the board of education's finance committee to favor wage increases. This was the typical experience of the 10,000 women teachers' organizations.

"I speak as one who gets your minimum salary, $720 a year," said one teacher, "and I tell you I can just manage to scrape along. Not one cent can I spend for cultural improvement.

"We are bringing to the children less sense of culture than they should have, not be bought for money," said another teacher. "The fire department, the board of health, the police department all have row service from us in matters that are not included in the curriculum for pay."

### PENSIONS FOR PRESSMEN.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., March 2.—Officers of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union report that the old-age pension plan has been adopted by nearly a two-to-one referendum vote.

The plan increases dues 25 cents a month. It is estimated that this increase will accumulate a fund of $50,000 in five years and at the end of that period, from the interest derived from the investment of the money together with the continued receipts from the tax upon the membership, a pension of $5 a week shall be paid those disabled members who have been in continuous good standing for 20 years or more.

### WOMEN SUFFRAGE GAINS.

Augusta, Me., March 3.—Both branches of the state legislature have passed a resolution providing for a special election to submit to the voters the question of a constitutional amendment granting suffrage to women.

Indianapolis, March 3.—The state legislature has given women the right to vote for presidential electors.

Columbus, Ohio, March 3.—Governor Cox has signed a bill which permits women to vote for presidential electors.

### WAGES CUT; POLISHERS STRIKE.

Bridgeport, Conn., March 3.—Fabulous wage profits of the Remington Arms company has not deterred this concern from cutting wages of its metal polishers nearly 10 per cent a week. After the cut active members of the union were weeded out. Following the action of the federal department of labor are trying to adjust differences.

In an attempt to increase hours, the company is circulating a Saturday half-holiday petition among its unorganized employes. It has been discovered that these workers overlooked a "joker" in the petition which increases the number of hours per week.

### CARPENTERS WANT MORE.

Belleville, Ill., March 3.—The Carpenters' union has prepared a new wage scale, effective the first of April. Wages are increased from 50 to 60 cents an hour.

Vancouver, British Columbia, March 2.—Carpenters' union reports that employers are accepting its new wage scale, which represents an increase of 5 per cent. Effective May 1.

### LOW WAGES IN PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia, March 3.—There are 2,357 men and women working for the city at less than $1,600 a year, says a local newspaper. Their average yearly wage is $1,200. According to a survey made by a municipal court, a family of modern size cannot live in this city above the starvation line at less than $1,250.

### SHIP CAULKERS UNITE.

Quincy, Mass., March 2.—Chippers and caulkers employed by the Fall River Ship Building company have been organized by the Boiler Makers' union.

### ASK 10 PER CENT INCREASE.

Richmond, Va., March 3.—Painters and Paper Hangers' union has asked employers for increase wages 10 per cent, or to $3 a day for painters and $3.50 for paper hangers.

## UNIONISTS DEFEND RIGHT TO QUIT WORK

Denver, March 3.—An audience that completely filled the state capitol hall heard trade unionists and Hon. Edward P. Costigan urge a joint meeting of the senate and house industrial relations committees to favor the repeal of Colorado's "can't-strike" law.

Every sentence of the speakers was solid shot against this iniquity, and antiunionists stood aghast at the clear-cut declaration that labor is a factor to be bound to respect a law that shackles him to his work.

Grant Hamilton, representing the American Federation of Labor, was the principal speaker. He closed with this statement:

"We stand for free institutions, opportunity for free thought and action. It is our duty, as believers in human freedom, to maintain the spirit and the institutions of our republic. We have the courage to back up our contentions and we shall be found faithful to them."

Edward L. Doyle spoke for the United Mine Workers and Frank J. Hayes, Hermond of the Pueblo Trades and Labor Assembly, said:

"There is no division in our ranks upon this question and we are here to-night to tell the legislative committee members of the legislature that, unless this relief and justice is granted us at this session of the general assembly, the working people of the state will adopt measures to right their wrongs."

Mr. Costigan, chairman of the legislative committee of the railroad brotherhoods, indorsed "every word that has been said this evening" and declared favoring repeal of the industrial commission act.

"Each of the four brotherhoods," he said, "are represented at this meeting and they are here to urge that at this session of the legislature wipe from the statute books a law which imposes slavery upon the working people."

Hon. Edward P. Costigan, twice a candidate for governor of this state on the Progressive ticket, said that similar legislation in Australia and Canada failed to stop strikes and that the federal commission on industrial relations, consisting of representatives of employes, employers and the public, favored the abandonment of the "can't-strike" proposal.

"The three representatives of capital," he said, "joined in the most earnest and far-reaching investigation of industrial conditions ever undertaken in America, came out absolutely in opposition to any limitation being put on the right to strike or to lock out. They rested their conclusion on the advice of the most impartial investigators throughout America and the world."

### ANTIS SHRIEK "TREASON."

Denver, March 3. — "Treason to the state!" yelp anti-unionists who have been driven into a corner by the logic and the solidarity of organized labor. This was at a hearing before a legislative committee on the repeal of Colorado's "can't-strike" law.

Grant Hamilton, representing the American Federation of Labor, hurled a verdict thorn to men who were blind to the outrages of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company and who were opposed to striking, and who would now gibbet this unionist and his associates because they dare protest against a law that compels the workman to be handcuffed to work by state enactment.

The unionists laugh at the "denunciations" of men who ignored the Ludlow massacre and who are blind to-day to the fate of our institutions because workers demand a right that is woven into the very web and woof of the nation.

The unionists say the complete unity of Colorado workers is the thing that makes the anti-unionists rage. Labor is not going to be bound hand and foot by the law-and-order boat.

### TELLS WOMEN TO ORGANIZE.

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 3.—The state legislature passed an alleged women's "eight-hour" law which provides for enactment of a law to limit hours for seven-day employments and 52 hours for six-day employment. For several months unionists have attempted to secure a genuine women's eight-hour law, but the difficulties encountered have caused the workers to be disgusted over the advice:

"If the wage-working women of Wyoming want so secure, the best results they will follow the example of their brother workers and will be employed in laundry, store or restaurant, organize and secure the short work day through agreement with their employers."

### OPPOSE FULL CREW BILL.

Trenton, N. J., March 3.—Railroads operating in this state are attempting to have the full crew bill for trains repealed. In a signed statement the railroads ask that the public utilities commissioners be given power to determine how trains should be manned to insure safe and efficient operation.

Friends of the full crew law say this statement is an acknowledgment that legislation is necessary to insure safety for brother workers and that it is a blight which was denied by railroad officials when they were resisting the law's passage.

### 5 AND 10 CENT STORES PAY.

New York, March 3.—The first annual report of the S. S. Kresge company, a 5 and 10-cent store organization, and a Michigan corporation, shows that last year a net income of $2,128,346 was derived from total sales amounting to $24,000,000. This is equivalent to nearly 20 per cent on common stock. The previous year common stock earned a dividend of over 21 per cent. The company made a profit of 7.38 cents on every dollar of sales. There are known now 357 stores in various parts of the country.

### 'FORGETFUL' COMPANY AWAKES

Rice Lake, Wis., March 3.—The Rice Lake Lumber company has granted a 15 cents a day for all employes paid less than $3 a week. A short time ago the organized workers employed by this concern started a petition for wage increases and the company noticed the movement. After waiting a reasonable time for a reply a committee called on the manager and was promptly notified that the board of directors had contemplated raising wages, "but had neglected it."

### SHIP CAULKERS UNITE.

Quincy, Mass., March 2.—Chippers and caulkers employed by the Fall River Ship Building company have been organized by the Boiler Makers' union.

### ASK 10 PER CENT INCREASE.

Richmond, Va., March 3.—Painters and Paper Hangers' union has asked employers for increase wages 10 per cent, or to $3 a day for painters and $3.50 for paper hangers.